



MUCKRACE MUSINGS

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2005 Muckrace #9

Over 70 birders competed in the ninth annual Montezuma Muckrace held Friday and Saturday September 9 & 10th in the Montezuma Wetlands Complex. The 16 teams from throughout New York including two youth teams, both first time competitors, together tallied 181 species during the 24-hour event, not quite matching 2004's total of 184.

Thanks to all the participants and sponsors who helped make the 2005 Muckrace the best ever with over \$1650 raised for projects at the Wetlands Complex by birders. Last year's money will be combined with money from this year to go towards a shorebird habitat project within the Montezuma Wetlands Complex.

The weather was sunny and cool with no precipitation in sight and an excellent night flight followed by heavy morning fog. Several teams mentioned seeing the first migrant warbler flocks of the fall during the day.

Pterodromas, sponsored by CLO - Information Services Department won number nine with a record breaking 144 species. Second place (143) also broke the previous record and went to the Knotcatchers sponsored by the Cornell Birding Club. Third place (136) was a tie between long time competitor the Windbirders from Rochester and Vermont and another Cornell team the Macauley Muckracers sponsored by the CLO - Macauley Library.

The youth category was won by the Cayuga Bird Club's Downy Chicks with 67 species. The eight year old birder of Team Hummer identified 49 species in 11 hours of birding. Birders participating in the Muckrace this year saw 17 species of waterfowl, 12 species of raptors, 19 species of shorebirds, and 24 species of warbler. Warblers were evident although not abundant and once more sandhill cranes made the count. All but two teams saw the American White Pelican that has been hanging around all summer just to get on the Muckrace species list - one of four new species seen this year.

Team Highlight of the Day

WARBLERS even at Esker Brook Trail at noon.

Black-crowned night-herons gathering at the tow path.

Big warbler flocks, hawk migration on Howland Island. Close up view of an

American Bittern on the wildlife drive.

Not getting lost on Howland Island!

Merlin hunting the shorebirds at Benning Marsh.

Hearing the Sora.

Saw coyotes.

Spotting the Glossy Ibis.

Realizing we hit 100+ species.

We only got lost once.

First fall flock foraging for food.

Being shown a Merlin by another team.

Drive by shootings of other Cornell teams using a supersoaker.

Watching the American White pelican cruise in on a thermal and circle down to a landing.

Muckrace #10 in '06 Come Celebrate!

Montezuma Muckrace number ten will be held on Saturday September 9, 2006, the first Saturday after Labor Day. We are planning something special to commemorate this milestone and hope you will be there to help us celebrate.

Audubon New York and the Friends of the Montezuma Wetlands Complex will again host this all day birding event.

Thanks to everyone who competed this year. We hope to see you at Muckrace #10.

The Planning Committee

Do something for
wildlife, join the



Final Results

Team Name	Sponsor	Total
1. Pterodromas	CLO - Information Services Department	144
2. Knotcatchers	Cornell Birding Club	143
3. Wind Birders	Unaffiliated	136
3. Muckracers	CLO - Macaulay Library	136
5. Eagles	Ecology & Environment, Inc	132
6. Real White Rumps	NYS Ornithological Society	117
7. Buffleheads	Minetor & Company	109
8. Mudhens	Cayuga Bird Club	106
9. Kestrels	Onandaga Audubon Society	104
10. Plucky Mucksters	Rock Stream Studios	96
Youth teams		
1. Downy Chicks	Cayuga Bird Club	67
2. Hummers	Wild Birds Unlimited	49
Recreational teams		
1. Montezuma Migrants	Unaffiliated	104
2. Coop-shins	Darby Hill Bird Observatory	100
3. Bobolinks	Eaton Birding Society	79
4. Humming Bobolinks	Unaffiliated	16

Team Lowlight of the Day

Lack of key species.

We got lost once.

Being incredibly bored by the end of the wildlife drive.

Morning fog delaying the start of our birding plan.

Lots of Canada geese

Motorcycles on the wildlife drive.

Carr chumming for crane on Carncross.

Getting stones lobbed at our car by Tim Lenz after drive by #2.

The "Great Blue Ibis," no, wait, the "Black-crowned Blue Heron"

No grackles.

The olfactory experience resulting from the encounter between our Isuzu Rodeo and a black and white striped mammal.

Too much fog - not enough birds.

Early morning drippy low light due to fog.

Thanks to all!

Many people make a successful Muckrace in addition to the planning committee, the teams and their sponsors. Thanks go to:

- ♦ John Van Niel for MCing
- ♦ Laura VanNiel, Grace and David Strong for once again helping with the finish line tally
- ♦ Jessica Morgan & Jillian Liner for the wonderful cookies and brownies this year.
- ♦ Linda & Bill Gillette for filling the feeders and opening their property to birders.
- ♦ Cornell Lab of Ornithology for birding CD's
- ♦ Audubon New York for plush singing birds
- ♦ The Lodge at Montezuma for a painted Christmas ornament, Identifier and cards and a clock radio
- ♦ Montezuma Winery for a case of wine
- ♦ Fred Bertram for the t-shirt artwork in honor of the Cerulean Warbler
- ♦ Andrew Mackie for the creative traveling golden boot awards
- ♦ Byrne Dairy for the cool refreshing ice cream sandwiches on a hot day
- ♦ Bodine Farms for a case of just picked Paula Red apples.
- ♦ Wild Birds Unlimited at the Lab of O for fanny packs, stool, Ivory-billed Woodpecker books
- ♦ Friends of Montezuma for chips, water, juice and pop.
- ♦ Gimme coffee! for a wide selection of fine coffees.
- ♦ Friends volunteer Carol Anderson for manning the store and visitor center during the race.
- ♦ Nice & Easy/Mamma Mia for pizza to feed the entire group at the tally.
- ♦ Graphic Connection for another great job on the event t-shirts
- ♦ Green Star Co-op for lemonade and organic bananas in the Fur House
- ♦ Ithaca Bakery for two huge bags of bagels and 3 lbs of cream cheese.
- ♦ Cash donations from Nucor Steel of Auburn and Proactive Productions of Ithaca.

Thank you!

Montezuma Muckrace 2005 Checklist

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Common Loon | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Black-bellied Plover | <input type="checkbox"/> Olive-sided Flycatcher | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Warbler |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pied-billed Grebe | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> American Golden-Plover | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eastern Wood-Pewee | <input type="checkbox"/> Golden-winged Warbler |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Double-crested Cormorant | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Semipalmated Plover | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-bellied Flycatcher | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Orange-crowned Warbler |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> American Bittern | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Killdeer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alder Flycatcher | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Warbler |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Least Bittern | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greater Yellowlegs | <input type="checkbox"/> Willow Flycatcher | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nashville Warbler |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Great Blue Heron | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lesser Yellowlegs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Least Flycatcher | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Northern Parula |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Great Egret | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Solitary Sandpiper | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eastern Phoebe | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yellow Warbler |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Green Heron | <input type="checkbox"/> Willet | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Great-crested Flycatcher | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chestnut-sided Warbler |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Black-crowned Night-Heron | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spotted Sandpiper | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eastern Kingbird | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Magnolia Warbler |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Glossy Ibis | <input type="checkbox"/> Hudsonian Godwit | | <input type="checkbox"/> Cape May Warbler |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mute Swan | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruddy Turnstone | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Horned Lark | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Black-throated Blue Warbler |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Snow Goose | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sanderling | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Purple Martin | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yellow-rumped Warbler |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Canada Goose | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Semipalmated Sandpiper | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tree Swallow | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Black-throated Green Warbler |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood Duck | <input type="checkbox"/> Western Sandpiper | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No. Rough-winged Swallow | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blackburnian Warbler |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Green-winged Teal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Least Sandpiper | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bank Swallow | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pine Warbler |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> American Black Duck | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> White-rumped Sandpiper | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cliff Swallow | <input type="checkbox"/> Prairie Warbler |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mallard | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Baird's Sandpiper | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barn Swallow | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Palm Warbler |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Northern Pintail | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pectoral Sandpiper | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bay-breasted Warbler |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Teal | <input type="checkbox"/> Dunlin | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blue Jay | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blackpoll Warbler |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Northern Shoveler | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stilt Sandpiper | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> American Crow | <input type="checkbox"/> Cerulean Warbler |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gadwall | <input type="checkbox"/> Buff-breasted Sandpiper | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Black-capped Chickadee | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Black-and-white Warbler |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> American Wigeon | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Short-billed Dowitcher | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tufted Titmouse | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> American Redstart |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eurasian Wigeon | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Long-billed Dowitcher | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Red-breasted Nuthatch | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ovenbird |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canvasback | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Snipe | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> White-breasted Nuthatch | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Northern Waterthrush |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Redhead | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> American Woodcock | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brown Creeper | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mourning Warbler |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Duck | <input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Phalarope | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greater Scaup | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carolina Wren | <input type="checkbox"/> Hooded Warbler |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lesser Scaup | <input type="checkbox"/> Bonaparte's Gull | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> House Wren | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Warbler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Common Goldeneye | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ring-billed Gull | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Winter Wren | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Canada Warbler |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hooded Merganser | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Herring Gull | <input type="checkbox"/> Sedge Wren | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-breasted Chat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Common Merganser | <input type="checkbox"/> Lesser Black-backed Gull | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marsh Wren | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red-breasted Merganser | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Great Black-backed Gull | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Golden-crowned Kinglet | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scarlet Tanager |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ruddy Duck | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caspian Tern | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ruby-crowned Kinglet | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Northern Cardinal |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Common Tern | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rose-breasted Grosbeak |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Turkey Vulture | <input type="checkbox"/> Black Tern | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indigo Bunting |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Osprey | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rock Pigeon | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eastern Bluebird | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eastern Towhee |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagle | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Veery | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chipping Sparrow |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Northern Harrier | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Black-billed Cuckoo | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gray-cheeked Thrush | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Field Sparrow |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sharp-shinned Hawk | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yellow-billed Cuckoo | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Swainson's Thrush | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vesper Sparrow |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cooper's Hawk | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eastern Screech-Owl | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hermit Thrush | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Savannah Sparrow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Goshawk | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Great Horned Owl | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood Thrush | <input type="checkbox"/> Grasshopper Sparrow |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Red-shouldered Hawk | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barred Owl | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> American Robin | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fox Sparrow |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Broad-winged Hawk | <input type="checkbox"/> Long-eared Owl | | <input type="checkbox"/> Nelson's S-t Sparrow |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk | <input type="checkbox"/> Common Nighthawk | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gray Catbird | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Song Sparrow |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> American Kestrel | <input type="checkbox"/> Whip-poor-will | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Mockingbird | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lincoln Sparrow |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Merlin | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chimney Swift | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brown Thrasher | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Swamp Sparrow |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peregrine Falcon | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ruby-throated Hummingbird | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> American Pipit | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> White-throated Sparrow |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Belted Kingfisher | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cedar Waxwing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dark-eyed Junco |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Pheasant | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> European Starling | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bobolink |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ruffed Grouse | <input type="checkbox"/> Red-headed Woodpecker | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Blackbird |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wild Turkey | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Red-bellied Woodpecker | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blue-headed Vireo | <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Meadowlark |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Virginia Rail | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yellow-throated Vireo | <input type="checkbox"/> Rusty Blackbird |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sora | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Downy Woodpecker | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Warbling Vireo | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Common Grackle |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Common Moorhen | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hairy Woodpecker | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Philadelphia Vireo | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brown-headed Cowbird |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> American Coot | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Northern Flicker | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Red-eyed Vireo | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Baltimore Oriole |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sandhill Crane | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pileated Woodpecker | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Purple Finch |

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> species seen by two or more teams (167)	Total Species:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> species seen by single team (14)	_____181_____
10 Competitive	4 Recreational
	2 Youth

Thank you for participating in the
Muckrace.

New species to the list in 2005
 __Dickcissel_____

__Am White Pelican_____

__Orchard Oriole_____

__Upland Sandpiper_____

Contacts

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Thank You to all
our sponsors and
donors who made
the Muckrace
such a success!

Nice n Easy, Seneca Falls
Byrne Dairy
Montezuma Winery
Wild Birds Unlimited @ CLO
Fred Bertram (artist)
Friends of Montezuma
Audubon New York
NYS Dept of Env. Cons.
US Fish & Wildlife Svcs

Cornell Lab of Ornithology
Proactive productions
Gimmee Coffee, Ithaca
Greenstar Coop, Ithaca
Ithaca Bakery
Bodine Farms, Seneca Falls
Nucor Steel, Auburn
Gillette Farms, Savannah

Planning Committee

Jillian Liner - Audubon New York
Jessica Morgan & Catherine Sandell -
Friends of the
Montezuma Wetlands Complex

2005 Results, Year 9

Date:	9-10 September
# teams entered:	16
# species seen:	181
# species for winning team:	144
Amount money raised:	\$1690
Project supported:	Shorebird habitat restoration
Winning team:	Pterdroma, CLO - Information Services Department
Winning youth team:	Downy Chicks, Cayuga Bird Club
Most memoable team bird:	American White Pelican
	Lincoln Sparrow
	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
	Glossy Ibis
	American Bittern
	Caspian Tern
	Philadelphia Vireo
	Upland Sandpiper
	Ruffed Grouse trio
	Palm Warbler
	Black & White Warbler
	American Kestrel migration
	Merlin hunting shorebirds
	the many warblers!
#species seen only in 2005:	4
# hours birded:	6 to 24
# warbler species recorded:	24

News & Notes

Earn Money for Your Group

The planning committee is considering offering Muckrace teams the opportunity to earn money for their respective sponsoring organizations. Details need to be worked out over the winter but look for more information in the spring.

New Shorebird Area

The new shorebird area at the beginning of the wildlife drive at the Montezuma refuge was filled recently and the shorebirds have responded quickly. With the drawdown of May's Pt this year and Benning Marsh the next two years, this may be the best accessible place for shorebirds.

According to refuge manager, Tom Jasikoff, a viewing area is in the works for this new area. Until then, birders need to remain in their vehicle.

There are also plans to disc May's Pt so that it should return to good shorebird habitat in 2006.